

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a first chamber including a first mixer disposed
in a first axial direction that coincides with an axial
5 direction of an image carrying body which carries an
electrostatic latent image, the first mixer stirring
and conveying a developer containing at least a toner
in a first direction and supplying the toner to the
image carrying body;

10 a second chamber disposed adjacent to the first
chamber and including a second mixer disposed in
parallel to the first mixer, the second mixer stirring
and conveying the developer in a second direction
different from the first direction;

15 a third chamber disposed adjacent to the second
chamber and including a third mixer, the third mixer
stirring and conveying the developer in the second
direction;

20 a recycle toner supply section that is disposed on
an upstream side of the third chamber and is supplied
with a recycle toner recovered from a surface of the
image carrying body; and

a fresh toner supply section that is disposed on
an upstream side of the second chamber and is supplied
25 with a fresh toner,

wherein an upstream side of an axis of the third
mixer is lower than an upstream side of an axis of the

second mixer.

2. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second mixer conveys the developer at a first speed, and

5 the third mixer conveys the developer at a second speed that is lower than the first speed.

3. The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the second speed is $1/3$ of the first speed.

10 4. An image forming apparatus comprising:

a first chamber including a first mixer disposed in a first axial direction that coincides with an axial direction of an image carrying body which carries an electrostatic latent image, the first mixer stirring and conveying a developer containing at least a toner in a first direction and supplying the toner to the image carrying body;

a second chamber disposed adjacent to the first chamber and including a second mixer disposed in parallel to the first mixer, the second mixer stirring and conveying the developer in a second direction different from the first direction;

a third chamber disposed adjacent to the second chamber and including a third mixer, the third mixer stirring and conveying the developer in the second direction;

a recycle toner supply section that is disposed on

an upstream side of the third chamber and is supplied with a recycle toner recovered from a surface of the image carrying body; and

5 a fresh toner supply section that is disposed on an upstream side of the second chamber and is supplied with a fresh toner,

wherein a downstream side of an axis of the third mixer is higher than a downstream side of an axis of the second mixer.

10 5. The image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the second mixer conveys the developer at a first speed, and

the third mixer conveys the developer at a second speed that is lower than the first speed.

15 6. The image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the second speed is 1/3 of the first speed.